

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Various enhancements are made to using smart cards that are associated
3 with (or to be associated with) a household. In one embodiment, data that is
4 expected to be of value to a user (e.g., electronic money) is attached to that user's
5 smart card(s), thereby providing an incentive for the user to keep his or her smart
6 card(s) secure. In another embodiment, the smart cards are used for parental
7 control (e.g., by restricting the children's access to one or more of the smart cards).
8 In yet another embodiment, smart cards are used to enhance user privacy by
9 maintaining user-specific information on the smart cards (which can be de-coupled
10 from the computing device whenever the user desires). In another embodiment,
11 the boundaries of a network of computing devices are defined by multiple smart
12 cards – any computing device to which a smart card is coupled is part of the
13 network.
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